



City of Hickory
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 27, 2007

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Drought and hot temperatures lead to the City of Hickory and water suppliers along the Catawba River Basin to mandate water restrictions for utility customers

HICKORY – Drought and hot temperatures lead to the City of Hickory and water suppliers along the Catawba River Basin to mandate water restrictions for utility customers.

During a conference call earlier today (August 27, 2007), Duke Energy and water suppliers on the Catawba River Basin declared a Low Inflow Protocol Stage 2 (LIP 2), and the goal of Stage 2 is to reduce water use by five to ten percent. In order to reduce water use, mandatory water restrictions are in place along the Catawba River Basin. This is the first time that major water suppliers along the Catawba River Basin and Duke Energy have declared a Stage 2 LIP since working together with the protocol system more than four years ago. Duke Energy officials stated that since recorded data, a Stage 2 has never been declared along the Catawba River Basin.

Also according to Duke Energy, only 18.2 inches of rain has fallen since January to August 2007 and that puts the basin 14 inches behind this year. This is the driest January to August since Duke Energy began keeping rainfall data records in 1971.

“We’ve been fortunate in Hickory that in the past we have never had to require our water users to conserve,” said Hickory City Manager Mick Berry. “With the severity of this drought we are now requiring residents and businesses to conserve water and reduce use by five to ten percent. We will stay in mandatory conservation until further notice.”

City of Hickory water users that receive water directly or indirectly from Hickory are all required to adhere to the mandatory restrictions. Customers include:

- City of Hickory
- City of Conover
- Town of Brookford
- Town of Claremont
- Town of Catawba
- Town of Maiden
- Portions of Catawba County - Sherrills Ford, Mountain View, Bandys and Banoak
- Portions of Alexander County - Bethlehem, Hwy. 16 and Sugarloaf

- Portions of Southern Caldwell County
- Portions of Eastern Burke County

As part of Section 31, Article III Hickory City Code, Hickory asks customers to begin steps immediately to meet stage 2 regulations for mandated water conservation. On September 4, customers not following the mandates are subject to fines. All fines will be added to the monthly utility bill.

Mandatory requirements for Stage 2 LIP:

- Limit outside water use to no more than two days per week. No more than one inch per week of outside watering is allowed.
 - Southeast Hickory, Southwest Hickory, Brookford, Conover, Claremont, Catawba, Maiden, Mountain View, Sherrills Ford, Bandys and Banoak may do outside watering on Tuesday and Saturday between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.
 - Northeast Hickory, Northwest Hickory, and portions of Alexander County (Bethlehem, Highway 16 and Sugarloaf), Southern Caldwell County and Eastern Burke County may do outside watering on Thursday and Sunday between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.
- Limit outside water use to only those items required for safety or regulatory compliance. No washing of buildings, sidewalks, parking lots or public streets.
- Landscaping should receive minimal watering with use of hand held cans or manned spring loaded nozzles.
- Eliminate residential vehicle washing; wash cars minimally at commercial car washes that use recycled water.

Tips that will help reduce water consumption indoors:

- Turn off water while brushing your teeth.
- Repair leaking faucets and/or toilets.
- Only run dishwashers and clothes washers with full loads.
- Do not run water while shaving or washing face.
- Do not throw trash in the toilet.
- Do not use running water to thaw meat or foods.
- Limit showers and baths to the minimum amount of water.
- Install water saver aerators (shower heads/faucets) if fixtures are not equipped with them.

To give the public ample opportunity to comply with the restrictions, the measures go into effect today, but fines will not begin until September 4. On September 4 Hickory water customers are subject to fines if not following the mandated conservation measures. City of Hickory Public Utilities staff is authorized to enforce. Below are the fines:

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| • First Offense | \$100 to \$200 (depending on size of meter) |
| • Second Offense | \$200 to \$400 (depending on size of meter) |
| • Third Offense | \$300 to \$600 (depending on size of meter) |

“City staff will be monitoring citizens’ water use and enforcing the conservation regulations and we encourage people to inform their neighbors who may not be aware of the restrictions on watering yards, washing cars, and other activities with water,” added Berry.

According to the Hickory City Code, community athletic associations, golf courses and similar customers whose use of water to irrigate large areas in community and business water use may submit a plan for approval by the Hickory Public Utilities Department allowing alternatives to the water conservation controls imposed by a water shortage declaration. For more information or to submit a plan, contact City of Hickory Public Services Assistant Director Kevin Greer, PE at (828) 323-7427.



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If customers have any questions or concerns, please contact the City of Hickory Public Utilities Department between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm at (828) 323-7427.

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